



Regional Cooperation Council

Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit

***Follow-up meeting to the Ministerial Conference on Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans,
7 September 2009, RCC Secretariat, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

-Draft Conclusions-

Considering all the presentations of the meeting participants, representatives of the Western Balkans ministries in charge of science and research, RCC members from SEE and representatives of international organisations and respective stakeholders, the meeting participants urged the European Commission, the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, OECD, The RCC Task Force Fostering Building Human Capital, Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkans and all other interested international donors and appropriate networks, to work together in establishing of a multi donor approach for the implementation of Regional Strategy for Research and Development Project that will stimulate research, development and innovation in the Western Balkans.

The meeting participants therefore welcomed the forthcoming World Bank's study, and would like to include the results of the study in further elaboration of the Regional Strategy for Research and Development. The meeting participants embraced the approach to involve the national administrations, working groups, networks and regional stakeholders as much as possible in the study, ensuring that the results are fully owned by the countries.

The meeting participants also welcomed the Commission's support to the Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans and invited the Commission to investigate whether the project fiche - to be presented in the Regional Programme - can cater for a multi donor approach, based upon the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Conference of 24 April 2009, building further on the work already carried out by SEE-ERA.NET, WBC-INCO.NET and the Steering Platform, while taking into account the results of the World Bank study.

The meeting participants also agreed that Coordination Body for the continuation of all activities related to Regional Research Strategy needs to be established and that the role of the Chair of the Coordination Body will be given to RCC. All RCC Members will inform RCC of two members of their delegation to participate in the work of the Coordination Body, one being from the relevant Ministry.

